REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that Claims 1 through 17 are pending in the application and the Examiner rejected all claims.

Rejection of Claims 1-17 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

On page 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 1-17 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over TOBAC: A Test Case Browser for Testing Object Oriented Software, by Ernst Siepmann et al., ACM 1998 ('TOBAC') in view of TETware Test Case Software from the Open Group, 1998 ('TETware') and in further view of Derwent translated Abstract of JP08331203A from December 13, 1996.

The Present Invention

The present invention is a method, apparatus, and computer program product to facilitate automated testing of multiple software products operating on multiple platforms. The present invention retrieves a test case that has been selected by the user from the Test Definition Database, places it in a queue and then automatically executes each test case by remotely running each test case at a specified time. Specifically, Claim 1 recites:

> selecting a list of at least one test case by a user via a user interface,
> wherein said step of selecting a list further comprises the steps of:
> > selecting a software product to be tested by said test case from said multi-product environment; and
> > selecting a platform for said software product to operate from said multi-platform environment;
> storing said list in a queue;

executing said test cases contained on said list automatically at specified times; and

storing output information generated by said software products.

By allowing a user to select a product as well as the environment to test it on (e.g., selecting a Java application to be run on an AS400 system), the present invention provides a testing environment resulting in a robust, cross-platform application.

TOBAC: A Test Case Browser for Testing Object Oriented Software, by Ernst Siepmann et al., ACM 1998

TOBAC: A Test Case Browser for Testing Object Oriented Software, by Ernst Siepmann et al., ACM 1998 ('TOBAC') teaches a test case browser. This test case browser is part of a test management system for object oriented software. The browser is used to define, manage and execute test cases. The main benefit of TOBAC is support for regression testing of complex objects. TOBAC is also self-adaptable to the structure of an arbitrary complex object (TOBAC, Abstract, pg 154).

TETware Test Case Software from the Open Group, 1998

TETware Test Case Software from the Open Group, 1998 ('TETware') teaches a uniform framework, or test scaffold, into which both non-distributed and distributed test suites can be incorporated. By providing such a scaffold, test suites from different vendors can share a

common interface allowing for, among other things, ease of portability (TETware, Introduction,

pg 3).

Derwent translated Abstract of JP08331203A

Derwent translated Abstract of JP08331203 to Masatoshi (hereinafter "Masatoshi") teaches

an inter-system connection test module for testing object mounts for connectivity issues, such as

hardware mounts for electrical cables. By monitoring the connections over a period of time, the

data exchanged between a set of devices can be monitored for any errors. The Examiner relies on

Masatoshi for an alleged teaching of performing a test case a specified time.

The Examiner Has Not Established a *Prima Facie* Case of Obviousness

As set forth in the MPEP:

> To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, there must be some suggestion or
> motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally
> available to one of ordinary skilled in the art, to modify the reference or to
> combine reference teachings.
> MPEP 2143

Neither of the prior art references, either alone or in combination, teach or suggest the

claimed invention.

As indicated above in the summary of the present invention, the present claimed invention

teaches a multi-product, multi-platform test environment where products to be tested are selected

and test cases are run <u>on specified platforms at specified times</u>. Specifically, Claim 1 states the

limitations of:

> selecting a list of at least one test case by a user via a user interface,
> wherein said step of selecting a list further comprises the steps of:
> selecting a software product to be tested by said test case from said
> multi-product environment; and
> selecting a platform for said software product to operate from said multi-
> platform environment;
>
> ...
>
> executing said test case contained on said list automatically at specified
> times.

Each additional independent claim (Claims 7 and 13) state similar limitations. These limitations

are especially important due to the cross-platform nature of the present invention. The present

invention allows for software testing across multiple computer systems running different operating

system platforms. By <u>selecting both a product to test and the platform</u> to test the product on, a

programmer running the test can monitor the product over a wide range of platforms to see if any

unexpected errors occur. By specifying times for each test to start, the programmer can allow for

each test to conclude with enough time for results to be checked across each platform before

proceeding with the next test. These limitations patentably define the present invention over the

prior art, including TOBAC, TETware, and Masatoshi.

The Examiner looks to TETware to teach executing test cases in a multi-product, multi-

platform environment. The Examiner refers to the fact that TETware can be configured to operate

on multiple operating systems, and utilizing an API for interfacing with multiple platforms.

However, these features are distinctly different from the present claimed invention. It is not the

testing environment itself that is customizable to run on multiple operating systems in the present claimed invention. The present claimed invention sets up a situation where a product (such as a specific Java application) is selected, along with a platform to run this product in (such as a Windows system or a Unix system), and the test case runs the test accordingly. By performing the testing in this manner, the same Java application can be run in every possible platform it was made to run in to assure that no errors are found in any of the selected platforms. TETware does not provide this level of customization or robustness.

Additionally, the Examiner acknowledges that neither TETware nor TOBAC teaches or suggests running the test case at specified times. The Examiner relies on Masatoshi for an alleged teaching of this limitation. Masatoshi teaches a system for testing electrical mounts. By connecting a set of electric devices and monitoring communications between the devices, any errors produced by either of the devices can be determined and analyzed. No mention of running a test case in a multi-product, multi-platform environment is discussed in Masatoshi, nor is there any mention of modifying such a test case running in a multi-product, multi-platform environment to include running at specified times. Without such a teaching or suggestion, it is inappropriate to modify TETware in view of Tobac to include running a test case in a multi-product, multi-platform environment at specified times as it claimed in the present invention.

As each independent claim specifically states the limitation of selecting a product and a platform from a multi-product, multi-platform environment to construct a test case, and specifying a time for the execution of the test case, and TOBAC, TETware and Masatoshi, either alone or in

combination, fail to teach or reasonably suggest these limitations, Claims 1-17 patentably define

over TOBAC in view of TETware and further in view of Masatoshi, and the Examiner is

respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections to Claims 1-17 under 35 U.S.C.

§103(a) over TOBAC in view of TETware and further in view of Masatoshi.

Conclusion

The present invention is not taught or suggested by the prior art. Accordingly, the

Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection of the claims. An

early Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any

overpayment associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 09-0461.

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Respectfully submitted,

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